(b) if not, the details of the total amount recovered as direct tax during the aforesaid period alongwith that remained to be recovered; and

(c) the increase in the expenditure incurred on the recovery of tax during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The total amount collected as direct tax from 1991-92 to 2004-05 works out to Rs. 7,63,541 crore. Out of this amount an amount of Rs.1,00,962 has been realized by the Income-tax Department through the process of recovery. The outstanding direct tax dues at the end of 2004-05 amount to Rs.1,00,379 crore.

(c) The total expenditure incurred by the Income-tax Department in 1991-92 was 1.69% of the total collections, which has come down to 0.89% in 2004-05. It is difficult to separate the expenditure attributable to recovery of tax.

Unutilised Bank Deposits

†1617. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a sum of one lakh crore rupees of Indian companies, which includes both Government and private companies, is laying unutilized in banks or in other forms;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the names of Government companies where more than one thousand crore rupees have been laying unutilized in this way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India has *vide* its circular dated 15th November, 1989 advised the banks to ensure that their branches follow up accounts which remained inoperative for year or so by sending suitable advices to the customers and if need be, they may immediately be put on inquiry to find out the whereabouts of the customer

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and their legal heirs. Such prompt follow up might enable the banks and/ or legal heirs, where applicable, to take such steps as are necessary to change the status of the accounts and will also reduce the quantum of unclaimed deposits of the banks, both in regard to amount and number.

Under Section 26 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 the banks are required to submit a return of accounts which have been inoperative for more than 10 years to the RBI. As on 31st December, 2004 a total of Rs. 794 crore was lying unclaimed with public sector banks in accounts inoperative for more than 10 years.

Uniform Tax of Diesel

†1618. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in those States of the country where the Value Added Tax had been enforced with effect from April, 2005, the State tax on diesel is not being charged uniformly;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) what is the percentage of tax on diesel being charged in each of those States of the country where Value Added Tax system is in force; and

(d) the reasons for not charging the uniform tax rate on diesel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) VAT is a State subject under Entry 54 of the State List of the Constitution of India. The design of VAT (including rates of tax on various items) has been finalized by the States collectively, through the deliberations in the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers, accordingly to which a few items of goods have been kept outside VAT and the same shall continue to be taxed as per the Uniform Floor Rates (UFR) decided by the Empowered Committee. The UFR for diesel

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.